

WO 2004/039252

13

PCT/NL2003/000738

Claims

1. A vaginal speculum comprising:
- two spoon blades, which are intended for introduction into the vagina, which are elongated and are located alongside and opposite one another, and which are mutually hinging about a hinge with a hinge axis running in the widthwise direction of the spoon blades;
 - a handle module provided with operating means and a handle, the spoon blades being fixed detachably on the handle module,
- characterized in that the speculum is constructed in modular fashion with the handle module and a spoon blade module;
- in that the spoon blades and the hinge are provided on the spoon blade module;
- in that the speculum further comprises:
- connecting means for connecting together in a disconnectable manner the handle module and the spoon blade module; and
 - locking means for locking the spoon blades in an open position; and
- in that the locking means are provided on the spoon blade module and comprise locking elements that are designed to hold the spoon blades locked in the open state in the vagina when the handle module of the spoon blade module is disconnected after the spoon blades have been introduced into the vagina and are in the open state.
2. The vaginal speculum as claimed in claim 1, in which the locking elements can be disconnected.
3. The vaginal speculum as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the spoon blade module is provided externally with at least one surface that tapers relative to the longitudinal direction of the spoon blades in the distal direction of the latter, upon which surface, when the speculum has been introduced into the vagina, the sphincter vaginae can act in such a way that a force acting in the distal

WO 2004/039252

PCT/NL2003/000738

14

direction is exerted upon the speculum, which force holds the speculum in the vagina.

4. The vaginal speculum as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the hinge is situated in the vagina when the spoon blades have been introduced into the vagina, and in which the hinge is preferably provided on the underside of the spoon blade module.

5. The vaginal speculum as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the hinge comprises a strip of material with a flexibility that permits hinging.

6. The vaginal speculum as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the spoon blades are provided with protuberances on the outside at edge parts of the spoon blades that rest against each other - or at any rate face each other - when the spoon blades are closed.

7. The vaginal speculum as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the spoon blade module is provided with a collection channel on the underside.

8. The vaginal speculum as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the handle module and the spoon blade module are attached to each other by means of a connection consisting of slots in the end face of one of the two modules, on the one hand, and insertion parts on the end face of the other module, on the other hand, which insertion parts are inserted into the slots.

9. An assembly comprising a handle module for a vaginal speculum as claimed in one of the preceding claims, and two or more spoon blade modules for a vaginal speculum as claimed in one of the preceding claims.

10. The assembly as claimed in claim 9, in which the two or more spoon blade modules comprise at least two spoon blade modules with mutually differing dimensions.